



Updates to the Houston Commission on Disabilities & Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Ordinance



Houston Commission on Disabilities Ordinance Background and Structure

- Passed in 1993
- Uses language from both the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Code of Federal Regulations
- Comprised of 4 Sections
 - Definitions
 - Composition and Membership
 - Meetings
 - Purpose



Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Background and Structure

Established in 1993 as the Mayor's Office on Disabilities

Comprised of 2 Sections

- Purpose
- Duties



Ordinance Updates

Sec. 2-380: Definitions

- This section eliminates outdated references to disabilities such as “mental retardation” and expands our definition of disability to be fully compliant with the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (PL 110-325).



Ordinance Updates

Sec. 2-381: Creation; appointment of members.

- This section changes the composition of the Houston Commission from 12 regular members and 4 alternates to 14 regular members. It also removes the requirement of a legal representative to be present at all commission meetings, consistent with other city boards and commissions.



Ordinance Updates

Sec. 2-382 - Composition of commission; positions; terms of members.

- This section establishes specific positions and terms for the commission.
 - Positions 1 through 9 must be held by people with disabilities who are residents of the city.
 - Positions 10 through 14 must be held by people who represent, or have an interest in the rights of, people with disabilities. Persons in these positions may be, but don't have to be, disabled.
 - This section also specifies the terms of office. The terms of persons serving in odd numbered positions will expire on July 26, 2024, and every 4 years thereafter. The terms of persons serving in even numbered positions will expire on July 26, 2022, and every 4 years thereafter. Members cannot serve more than 2 consecutive terms on the commission.



Ordinance Updates

Sec. 2-385 - Assistance by certain city departments.

- This section was expanded to include HITS, HCD, and HPARD.



Ordinance Updates

Sec. 2-387 - Purposes.

- This section was redrafted to make the purposes of the commission clearer and more measurable.
- Changes include:
 - Developing and providing policy recommendations to improve physical and digital accessibility barriers in the city;
 - Developing and providing policy recommendations to insure accessible housing, infrastructure, educational, cultural, and transportation opportunities for people with disabilities; and
 - Developing programs and policy recommendations to insure effective communication for people with disabilities.



Ordinance Updates

Sec. 2-388 - Mayor's Office on Disabilities.

- This section moves MOPD from the Department of Neighborhoods to Houston Public Works.



Ordinance Updates

Sec. 2-389 - Purpose.

- This section was redrafted to reflect the office's current responsibilities including serving as subject matter expert to internal and external stakeholders on matters regarding people with disabilities in the greater Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land census statistical area.





Ordinance Updates

Sec. 2-390 - Duties.

- This section was expanded to reflect MOPD's current responsibilities and codifies the ADA transition plan. Changes include:
- Oversee the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan and make any necessary updates at least every three years;
- Develop and implement programs to take full advantage of all federal, state and local funding opportunities to improve access for and promote awareness of people with disabilities; and
- Provide information to assist in planning and prioritizing allocations for enhancing city programs, services, activities, and city-owned or leased facilities for people with disabilities.





Thank You.



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